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Regional Donor Centre
80 St Vincent Street
Glasgow G2 5UA
Telephone: 0141 226 4111
Fax: 0141 226 3078



**Glasgow and West of Scotland
Blood Transfusion Service**

**Regional Headquarters
and Laboratories**
at Law Hospital, Carlisle
Lanarkshire ML8 5ES
Telephone: 01698 373315
Fax: 01698 356770

Please reply to Dr PR Mills
Consultant Gastroenterologist
Gartnavel General Hospital
1053 Great Western Road
Glasgow, G12 0YN

18 March 1999

Dear Dr Mills,

Re: Name: **GRO-B** Date of birth: **GRO-B** 54
National HCV Register reference number: **GRO-B**

As relatively little is known about HCV infection, transmission, or the clinical course of the resultant disease, a national register of HCV infections is being created. This register has been funded by the Department of Health and will provide a facility for the future monitoring and long-term assessment of HCV infection within the UK.

The national register will include information on all patients who have become infected with Hepatitis C virus on a known date. The register will also gather information on other people who are not definitely infected, but who may have been exposed to the virus, for example by receiving a blood transfusion from a donor who was later found to be infected with HCV. Since your patient was identified during the HCV look back exercise and may have been exposed to an HCV infected blood donation, I am writing to inform you that they are eligible for inclusion in the register. I would therefore be most grateful if you would formally register your patient by completing the enclosed form. Once completed, this letter should be detached (so that the form is anonymised), and the form should be returned the registry using the prepaid sticker provided. We are aware that some clinicians may be caring for a number of patients and the co-ordinator of the register (Dr Helen Harris) would be happy to assist these clinicians with completion of their forms. Helen Harris can be contacted directly on Tel: **GRO-C** ext **GRO-C** (Page: **GRO-C**) No patient names will be sent to, or held on, the national HCV register. It is very important therefore, that you retain the register number in your records and that you are able to trace the patient from either the register number or the identifier/reference number that you supply on the registration form (question 1). A detachable p for recording this information is enclosed for you to retain in your records, and a sticker is enclosed for the front of the patient's notes.

I have also enclosed an information sheet explaining the purposes of the registry which you may like to pass to your patient. No patient will be contacted directly. However, this information sheet has been provided for clinicians who feel they would like to notify patients of their inclusion in the register. Ethical approval for the register has been obtained from both the Public Health Laboratory Service and the UK Multi-Centre Research Ethics Committees. There is no formal requirement to gain patient consent.

Thank you once again for your time. If you require any further information regarding either the register or completion of the registration form, please do not hesitate to contact the register co-ordinator (Dr Helen Harris: Tel: **GRO-C** **GRO-C** ext **GRO-C** Pager: **GRO-C**), who will be happy to answer any queries you may have.

Yours sincerely,

GRO-C

Dr D Frame
Associate Specialist

Registered 3/6/99

GRO-C

